



THE PERINATAL SOCIETY of AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Perinatal Mortality Special Interest Group

Activity Report 2003/2004

Administration/ membership

- **PNM-SIG Steering Committee 2003/2004**

The PNM SIG Committee members for 2003/2004 were as follows:

James King – Obstetrics (Chair), Annabelle Chan – Other Perinatal, Adrian Charles – Other Perinatal, Ross Haslam – Neonatology, Lesley McCowan – Obstetrics, Christine Roberts – Other Perinatal, David Tudehope – Neonatology, Vicki Flenady – Other Perinatal (Secretary)

- **PNM-SIG Membership 2003/2004**

There are currently 44 members of the PNM SIG with representatives from all States and Territories.

- **PNM-SIG Coordination**

The Centre for Clinical Studies, Mater Health Services provides coordination for the SIG activities.

- **Funding from SIDS & Kids, Queensland**

To support the Perinatal Mortality Special Interest Group, SIDS and Kids Queensland have kindly donated \$5,000 towards administration costs. It is hoped that ongoing support will be provided through national collaboration.

- **WebPage**

The Special Interest Group WebPages on the PSANZ Website have been developed. Funding received from SIDS and Kids Queensland, will assist in maintaining the WebPages. The web address is www.psanz.org and the information on the Special Interest Group is under Perinatal Mortality.

Initiatives/ Activities

- **Symposium - Dilemma of Unexplained Stillbirth: *How Can We Contribute?***

October 17th 2003, Brisbane. This was a successful one-day symposium in collaboration with PSANZ and the IMPACT (Interdisciplinary Maternal Perinatal Australasian Clinical Trials Network) and supported by the Centre for Clinical Studies, Mater Health Services and SIDS and Kids Queensland. The Symposium was very well attended. Dr Frederik Froen MD, PhD, a researcher at the Departments of Pediatric Research and Obstetrics & Gynecology at Rikshospitalet University Clinical, University of Oslo, Norway was the Keynote Speaker. Frederik spoke on “*Unexplained or Unexplored*”, “*Clues from Epidemiology Studies to Date*” “*Kick Counts – A Systematic Review of the Evidence*” and “*International Collaboration*”.

Other invited speakers and presentations included: Adrian Charles: *The Role of the Perinatal Pathologist*, Allan Chang: “*Customised Birthweight*”, James King: “*PSANZ Classification for Perinatal Deaths*” and “*Detecting the Fetus at Risk of Antepartum Death*”, Maxine Croft: “*Epidemiology of Unexplained Stillbirth in Western Australia*”, Vicki Flenady: “*Unexplained Antepartum Fetal Death, Queensland 1994-2000*” and “*ANZ Collaboration*”.

- **Australasian (ANZ) Fetal Death Collaborative Group**

Following the main SIG meeting on October 18th 2003, a group of interested members met and decided that an ANZ Fetal Death collaboration be set up as a special activity of the PSANZ Perinatal Mortality SIG. The aim of this activity is to minimise duplication of effort and facilitate interaction and the conduct of high quality research.

- **Training Program in Perinatal Mortality Audit**

December 1st - 5th 2003 A training program to cover Auditing Stillbirths and Perinatal Deaths was carried out at Mater Health Services after a request through PSANZ was received from Dr Rachel Koshy, Deputy Director of the Perinatal Unit, Malaysian Health. As part of the Training Package, and to gain an insight into Perinatal Mortality Audit from a health perspective, Dr Koshy visited representatives of Queensland and Victorian Health Departments. Dr Koshy hopes to work towards implementation of the PSANZ perinatal mortality classification system in Malaysia.

- **Development of Perinatal Mortality Audit Guidelines**

Perinatal Mortality Audit Guidelines for use in ANZ are being developing. Funding of \$12,000 has been received from the Royal Australian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists for this activity. A portion of the funding received for the SIG from SIDS and Kids Queensland has contributed to this. Additional funding to enable completion of the guidelines and incorporation of a chapter on Bereavement is being sought with the assistance of SANDS and SIDS and Kids.

- **Cases for Training Purposes**

Approximately 100 perinatal mortality cases have been compiled by Annabelle Chan as a training resource.

- **Infant Mortality Working Party**

A Working Party to develop an Infant Mortality Classification which will identify obstetric antecedents and major events following birth is under development.

- **Publications**

A paper on the development of the classification has been accepted for publication by the Journal of Paediatrics Child Health. This will enable the classification to be cited.

PNM-SIG Meetings

- **Meetings 2003**

October 18th 2003, Brisbane: A meeting of the PNM-SIG was held and attended by 23 members with good representation from States and Territories and SIDS and Kids.

- **Upcoming meeting**

March 13th 2004. A half-day meeting of the PNM-SIG will be held prior to the PSANZ Congress in Sydney.